

SB 1180 –Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund

SENATOR BEN ALLEN

Fact Sheet

SUMMARY

SB 1180 establishes detailed spending requirements and guidelines for the California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund.

BACKGROUND

Single-use packaging and food service ware generate non-recyclable and non-compostable waste with significant impacts on public health and the natural environment. In 2024 alone, California discarded over 8 million tons of covered material, of which 3 million tons were plastic. Plastic pollution persists in the environment for decades or longer, contaminating waterways, soils, and marine ecosystems, and causing widespread harm to marine life and wildlife. Microplastics are now widely detected in air, drinking water, and food, and have been identified in human blood and tissues, with emerging research linking exposure to inflammation, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and reproductive and developmental harms.

To address this issue, SB 54 (Allen, 2022) established a comprehensive regulatory framework requiring producers of covered materials to reduce covered plastic material and ensure that covered materials offered for sale in California are recyclable or compostable by January 1, 2032. The law required producers of covered materials to either join a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) or independently comply with funding and implementing a plan to collect and manage the material according to the statute's requirements.

In addition to the budget allocated by the PRO plans, SB 54 created the California Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund (PPMF) to address environmental and public health impacts of plastic pollution. The fund consists of at least \$5 billion over the next 10 years, funded by environmental mitigation surcharges, interest, penalties, and specified charges on the PRO. The statute established that 60% of the fund must be expended to monitor and reduce the historical and current environmental justice and public health impacts of plastics, while 40% must be expended to monitor and reduce the environmental impacts of plastics on terrestrial, aquatic, and marine life and human health.

In its current form, the statute establishes broad parameters and goals for the PPMF but requires additional operational specificity for successful implementation.

SOLUTION

SB 1180 provides the detailed framework necessary to effectively administer the Plastic Pollution Mitigation Fund. The bill:

- Requires each expenditure from the fund to achieve specific purposes, including improving public or environmental health and engaging relevant communities in project planning, development, and implementation.
- Mandates that implementing agencies provide technical assistance, use standardized simplified grant applications, initiate projects in a timely manner, and reimburse grantees' indirect costs.
- Expands the definition of eligible fund recipients beyond those listed in SB 54.
- Establishes reporting and transparency measures, requiring the Secretary for Environmental Protection to publish annually a comprehensive document listing all program and project expenditures.

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